In order to achieve this illusion, Tijana used three large-scale projectors and one wireless projector mounted to the ceiling and projected videos that she directed and filmed prior to installation. Weeks before installing projectors and bringing the vision to the space, she directed the filming of an underwater video by placing a GoPro Hero 4 camera on the bottom of the Olympic-sized swimming pool in ETSU’s Butler Center for Physical Activity and by enlisting a group of swimmers to swim, dive and move naturally in the water. As she directed the actors, she controlled the camera from the edge of the pool with a smartphone application.

When the underwater video is projected from several angles onto all of the walls as well as the plastic draperies, the room becomes an interactive, underwater space. Tijana explained that the space at L.C. King plays a significant role in portraying the vision accurately, because the age of the building adds to the ambiance and can evoke a sense of history and nostalgia. The installation made an impression on the guests and visitors who attended the exhibit and invited professors and friends to view her capstone project. Tijana expressed that receiving feedback helped her make changes and adjustments to the installation and provided her with valuable insights for future projects.

To capture the essence of the underwater environment, Tijana used a GoPro camera attached to the edge of the pool to capture videos from several angles. She directed the filming of an underwater video, which serves as the foundation for the installation. The underwater video is projected onto the space, creating the illusion of being underwater. Tijana wanted to emphasize the rustic elements that come with an old space built in 1914 and combine them with the perfection of modern digital projection.

During the making of her capstone Project, Tijana relied on guidance from Mr. Hounshell on a consistent basis as she found the right space, applied for the Arist in Residence program, negotiated the terms of the installation, and planned the logistics of creating an installation on such a large scale. Unlike many fields where a set method is expected and courses of action are limited, the Master of Arts in New Media Studio requires imagining and reimagining uses for technology and then collaborating to make the imagined vision real. Because of the necessity for openness and flexibility in the creative process, Hounshell primarily provided guidance and served as a problem solver when Tijana needed to change her approach or find a new perspective. During the making of Tijana’s project, installing the plastic panels for projection required her to try several methods and to approach the materials while thinking about the ultimate visual goal.

Collaboration is a continuous process and both student and adviser contribute to the final outcome. In March, 2015, Tijana held an unveiling of her project and invited professors and friends to view the installation and provide feedback. The installation, “UnderSurface,” was featured in an exhibit open to the public on April 28th, 2015. The second component of her capstone exhibit, Tijana created promotional materials including brochures, posters, and video that advertised the final exhibit and documented her creative process. The final part of the capstone project in New Media Studio is the supporting written document which outlines the artistic process and explains the concept of the installation.

After graduating, Tijana plans to work in the field of Graphic Design and continue installation art. Her website, which is continuously updating, will also feature the capstone project and a wide range of her art.

Tijana appreciated all of the help she received from Chris Stuart, the Director of Marketing and Communications for L.C. King, who served as a problem solver when she encountered challenges. Stuart played a significant role in guiding Tijana through the installation process and explaining the concept of the installation. The installation, “UnderSurface,” was featured in an exhibit open to the public on April 28th, 2015. As the second component of her capstone exhibit, Tijana created promotional materials including brochures, posters, and video that advertised the final exhibit and documented her creative process. The final part of the capstone project in New Media Studio is the supporting written document which outlines the artistic process and explains the concept of the installation.

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The National Survey on Drug Abuse and Health, which is administered to approximately 75,000 households annually, is the source of data for Billy’s dissertation work. Of particular interest to Billy is a drug abuse and dependency measure consisting of 11 items. The 11 items are based on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition (DSM-4) criteria; of these 11 items, 4 items focus on abuse and 7 items focus on dependency, with each item coded as a binary response choice of “yes” or “no.” One of his research objectives is to examine differences in participant response according to geographic region such as “urban” vs. “rural.” This is important because death from unintentional overdoses has increased dramatically in rural areas. In addition, Billy’s analysis plan for his dissertation includes multiple research questions related to differences in urban and rural participants. He hypothesizes that participants, especially from rural, isolated areas such as Appalachia, might score differently on the DSM-4 measurement tool compared to a more urban sample. His sample consists of several thousand participants, all of whom self-report past year non-medical use of a controlled substance.

Billy’s analysis plan will focus more specifically on the following. First, he will investigate the validity issues regarding the abuse/dependency measure using an exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis. Second, depending on the outcome of this factor analysis, a structural equation model (SEM) will be used to examine how demographic variables such as sex, race, ethnicity, and age vary between rural and urban participants and the risk of abuse and dependency. Finally, a latent class analysis will be conducted to identify potential differences in clustering of types of drugs abused by rural and urban geographic designation. At this point, the data is still being analyzed and no results are available. Dr. Alamian is working closely with Billy in his analysis of multiple data points and possible implications.

Throughout the research process, Billy stated that Dr. Alamian “was very available” and that he “felt supported” in his research journey. Dr. Alamian commented on Billy’s work by stating, “I commend his work… it takes determination and motivation.” Billy has won numerous awards including the Outstanding Dr. PH Student Award (2014), Chair’s Award for Excellence in Service (2013), and the Public Health Student Association Leadership Award. Billy has been very active in student organizations on campus, and taught undergraduate courses at ETSU in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, but he is currently focusing solely on his research. He has presented work from the DIDARP group at the American Public Health Association annual meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana and will defend his dissertation in the summer. He is planning to graduate in the summer of 2015 and wants to continue his teaching and research as a university professor.